



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 6:45 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - July 12, 2001

- ***In the West***, seasonal showers continue to ease irrigation requirements and aid ranges and pastures in the ***Four Corners region***. Beneficial showers in the ***Northwest*** are providing limited relief to drought-stressed small grains.
- ***On the Plains***, a severe heat wave continues to stress reproductive summer crops, including corn, cotton, sorghum, and peanuts, in ***Oklahoma, Texas, and eastern New Mexico***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 100 to 105 degrees F. Meanwhile, favorably cooler weather and scattered showers are overspreading the ***central Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, locally heavy thunderstorms are soaking ***southwestern portions of the region***, including the ***lower Missouri Valley***. Elsewhere in the region, mild weather favors corn and soybean development, although topsoil moisture is becoming limited across the ***upper Mississippi Valley*** due to three consecutive weeks without significant rainfall.
- ***In the South***, hot weather and dry soils are stressing reproductive summer crops in the ***northern Delta region***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to approach 100 degrees F. Elsewhere in the region, very warm weather and generally adequate soil moisture levels are promoting rapid summer crop development.

Outlook: A favorable pattern of near- to below-normal temperatures is forecast into early next week across most of the U.S., although hot, dry weather is expected to linger across ***Texas***. Scattered showers are forecast in a broad band from the ***northern Plains into the Southeast***, while mostly dry weather will prevail in the ***Ohio Valley***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 17-21 calls for a return to above-normal temperatures throughout the ***Plains and western Corn Belt***, while near- to below-normal temperatures are forecast in the ***East and West***. A wet weather pattern is expected across the ***nation's northern tier***, including the ***Pacific Northwest***, portions of the ***northern Plains and northern Corn Belt***, and the ***Northeast***. Above-normal rainfall is also forecast across ***southern Florida***. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather is expected on the ***central and southern Plains***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)